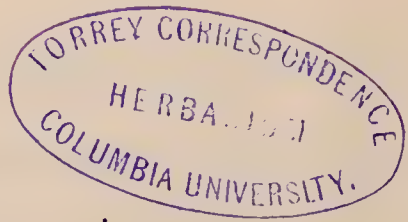


New-York, August 19th, 1838.

To
John Torrey Esq.
Assayer
30 Wall Str. N.Y.



Dear Sir.

The willingness with which you support the increase of science and industry in our great Commonwealth, gives me courage to ask your advice and decision on my project.

I am since 30 years practical gardener and for 10 years I have continued the same business here. I am from the vicinity of Magdeburg in Prussia; there is manufactured on and in the vicinity of this city to the extent of about 200 square miles, more sugar of beet-root than in all other parts of Germany taken together. Hence I am thoroughly acquainted with the cultivation of the beet-root and superficially with the manufacture of the sugar. Although I am aware that the result with which the sugar is cultivated in Europe is very well known here; although I know several attempts made here and that have failed, to master this branch of industry, notwithstanding I had for a long time the project to occasion another attempt to be made on a larger scale.

The following are my calculations: The Louisiana sugar can only ^{competely} ~~concur~~ with that of the West Indies when a duty of 30 per. cent is layed on the latter. In Prussia the tax on the sugar manufactured in the country (beet-root sugar) is as high as that of the West-Indian cane-sugar; the rent per acre is \$30.00, the burning material and wages are nearly as high there as in and about New-York. Consequently it is my opinion that the beet-root sugar would yield a greater profit than either of the above named, since there is no tax layed on sugar manufactured here.

In the Southern States of the Union every attempt must fail, because in my opinion the climate is not suited for the cultivation of the root. In the Eastern States the manufacture of the sugar may not in all places pay well, where besides the high wages, the ground and fuel are dear. But in the Western States where the price of the sugar is about one cent ^{per lb.} more than in the large commercial cities, where the ground and also fuel do not cost much, and where the workman's living is cheap, there the manufacture of the beet-root sugar ought to pay well, and to cause villages and towns to spring up, provided there are no great hindrances to raise healthy, durable, and sugar-yielding roots.

Although it is generally taken for granted that the beet-root likes a moist and moderate fruitful soil, still the soil of my native place belongs to the most numerous, heavy sand & gravel. We gathered on an average of 300 ctw. per acre; and notwithstanding that the common weight of the root is from 2 to 3 pounds, yet it was not seldom that there were quite healthy and solid (not hollow) roots from 10 to 15 pounds, which still through the winter and were as rich in sugar stuff as the smaller ones. The heavy ground of the same composition often in the western states. — Why did the attempts made fail? Was it that the ground was too rich, so that the beet roots were comparatively too large, hollow, and therefore became less yielding and less durable; yet if so, there could have impaired the productiveness of the soil.

Is the change between the temperature of the cool spring to the hot summer too rapid; the heat and often lasting dryness of the latter too long, and hence comes the incomplete development of the sugar stuff in the root; the

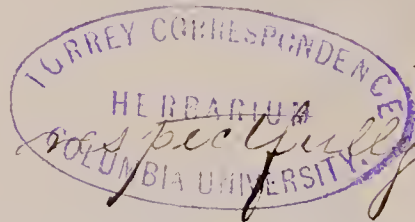
small dose. It is a climate object. It is much. Then
would it be a pity to use any pains for future experiments.

If it is not the cause, it is perhaps owing to the selec-
tion or degeneracy of the seed, the cultivation of the soil,
the soil method of preserving the roots, the want of con-
tinuing the experiments, then I conclude the following:

1st For the selection of suitable ground I would travel
over the northern part of the States of New-York, Indiana,
Illinois, and Iowa, also the southern part of the States
of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan!

2nd I would occasion several intelligent farmers in the
vicinity of railroads, rivers, and canals, to make at-
tempts in the cultivation of beet-roots according to
my directions and to preserve them through the winter.

3^d I would myself conduct the cultivation of the beet-
root on a large scale say from 4 to 10 acres in any
seemingly favorable place, and there to make experi-
ments for the production of beet-roots, keeping
them through the winter, the gain of the sugar, etc.
What experience have you of the same, dear sir, and
what advice would you give me? ? ?



respectfully yours

Charles Dracolly

(care of B. M. Whitlock & Co.
13 Beekman Str. N. Y.)

